

1 PROCLAMATION OF CONTINUATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY

2 BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

3 COUNTY OF FRESNO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

4  
5 IN THE MATTER OF THE)

6 2015 DROUGHT CONDITIONS)

RESOLUTION NO. 15-165

7  
8 WHEREAS, a local emergency presently exists in the County of Fresno in accordance with  
9 the proclamation thereof by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of  
10 March, 2015 as a result of a crippling disaster, which severely impaired public health and public  
11 safety, created by conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property which have  
12 arisen within said County caused by a statewide drought commencing in 2012; and

13 WHEREAS, on January 17, 2014, the Governor proclaimed a statewide emergency due to  
14 unprecedented drought conditions in the State of California; and

15 WHEREAS, on January 28, 2014 the Fresno County Board of Supervisors adopted a  
16 resolution in support of the Governor's proclamation; and

17 WHEREAS, on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2015, the Board of Supervisors of the County of  
18 Fresno, proclaimed the existence of a local emergency and requested the Governor of California  
19 make available any and all State assistance programs and seek additional Federal assistance  
20 programs to provide relief to the individuals, growers, businesses, public agencies and private  
21 agencies that were harmed by this disaster; as a result of local resources being inadequate to cope  
22 with the effects of said emergency; and the combined forces of the other political subdivisions of  
23 the State were required to assist the County to combat the effects of said emergency ; and

24 WHEREAS, on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2014, the Governor issued Executive Order  
25 (EO) B-26-14 authorizing the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to provide  
26 California Disaster Assistance Act funding, as deemed appropriate, for local government  
27 assistance to provide emergency water supplies to households without water for drinking and  
28 sanitation purposes: and

1 WHEREAS, on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2015, the Governor signed emergency legislation -  
2 AB 91 and AB 92 – that fast-tracks more than \$1 billion in funding for drought relief and critical  
3 water infrastructure projects; and

4 WHEREAS, this Board appreciates the Governor's efforts to deal with this statewide  
5 emergency and crisis; and

6 WHEREAS, said emergency has continued and escalated in cumulated impact on this  
7 County; and

8 WHEREAS, local and statewide resources continue to be inadequate to cope with the  
9 effects of said emergency; and

10 WHEREAS, of California's total developed water supply of 82.5 million acre-feet, 47.8% is  
11 being made available to environmental purposes, 41.5% is designated for agricultural uses and  
12 10.8% is allocated to urban uses; and

13 WHEREAS, all beneficial uses and users within California have been curtailed – in part or  
14 in whole – by the State Water Board or local and regional allocation and entitlement decisions in  
15 response to the drought; and

16 WHEREAS, On average, agricultural water supplies between Redding and Bakersfield  
17 have been reduced by 70%, with 31% of California's irrigated farmland, or 2,831,000 acres,  
18 receiving zero water supply allocations; and 52.8% of the state's irrigated farmland receiving 20%  
19 or less of normal surface water supplies; and

20 WHEREAS, water made available by the State of California for environmental purposes has  
21 remained unregulated and, in many cases, has resulted in urban and agricultural users losing  
22 potential water supplies to keep environmental uses "whole"; and

23 WHEREAS, 2015 is the second consecutive year in which Central Valley Project contractors  
24 within Fresno County have endured zero water supply allocations, which agricultural contractors and  
25 users are being most negatively affected; and

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1 WHEREAS, that these circumstances compel Fresno County to request the Governor to take  
2 even more stringent actions to be directed at reducing the state's water consumption by imposing  
3 curtailments water supplies currently dedicated to the environment and fishery habitat that are  
4 comparable to those now being mandated and burdening urban and agricultural contractors and  
5 users; and

6 NOW THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF FRESNO  
7 RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS that the Governor be requested to direct the State Water Board to take  
8 action making changes in Delta water operations necessary to provide additional water supplies for  
9 urban and agricultural users; and

10 That the Governor be requested to meet and confer with the U.S. Department of the Interior  
11 and U.S. Department of Commerce to exercise the greatest possible flexibility in biological opinions  
12 regulating operations affecting endangered species under the federal Endangered Species Act; and

13 That the Governor be requested to be supportive of Congressional legislative efforts being  
14 undertaken by Senator Feinstein to enact federal drought legislation that would benefit water supply  
15 availability in Fresno County and the San Joaquin Valley; and

16 That the Governor be requested to notify this Board of Supervisors of any and all actions,  
17 orders, negotiations and discussions undertaken on behalf of advancing the points enumerated  
18 above; and

19 That the Governor be requested to continue to make available any and all State assistance  
20 programs and seek additional Federal assistance programs to provide relief to the individuals,  
21 growers, businesses, public agencies, and private agencies that were harmed by this disaster; and

22 That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor of California, the State Water  
23 Resources Control Board and the Director of the State Office of Emergency Services.

24 NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED by the Board of Supervisors of the  
25 County of Fresno, State of California, that said local emergency continues to exist in the County of  
26 Fresno and that this county remains at "Ground Zero" for the state's most serious economic and  
27 social water supply reduction impacts.

1 THE FOREGOING was passed and adopted by the following vote of the Board of  
2 Supervisors of the County of Fresno this 5th day of May, 2015, to-wit:

3  
4 AYES: Supervisors Pacheco, Perea, Borgeas, Mendes, Poochigian

5 NOES: None

6 ABSENT: None


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8 

9 Deborah A. Poochigian, CHAIRMAN  
10 Board of Supervisors

11  
12 ATTEST:

13 BERNICE E. SEIDEL

14 Clerk, Board of Supervisors

15 By   
16 Deputy